

MISCELLANEOUS.

Discovery of the Animal of the Spongiadæ confirmed.

By H. J. CARTER, F.R.S. &c.

MY DEAR DR. FRANCIS,

Just a line to tell you what you will be glad to learn, viz. that I have confirmed all that Prof. James-Clark, of Boston, has stated about the sponge-cell, and much more too.

It is, after all, only what was published and illustrated in the 'Annals' in 1857. Indeed I am astonished now at the accuracy and detail of that paper ("Ultimate Structure of Spongilla" &c.), now *all* confirmed by an examination of a *marine* calcareous sponge.

I have not only fed the sponge with indigo, and examined all at the moment, but the sponge so fed was put into spirit directly afterwards, and *now* shows all the cells (monociliated) with the *cilium attached and the indigo still in the cells.*

This, I think, will break down Hæckel's hypothesis, which is as imaginative and incorrect as it is beautiful.

His "Magosphæra," too, is figured in the 'Annals' (1856), and described *in extenso* as the amœboid cell which inhabits the mucus of the cells or internodes of the Bombay great *Nitella*.

But there are no people in England, if on the Continent, who seem to be able to show this, if even they be cognizant of it.

Ex oriente lux used to be the old phrase; the light is now being *reflected* back from America. It is from there that we must expect novelties now.

Yours &c.,

H. J. CARTER.

"The Cottage," Budleigh-Salterton,
May 22, 1871.

On Testudo Phayrei and Scapia Falconeri.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Dr. J. Anderson read a communication to the Zoological Society on the 2nd of May, accompanied by "some drawings of and notes on the original specimen of *Testudo Phayrei*, Blyth, in the Indian Museum. Having examined the skull in the British Museum upon which *Scapia Falconeri*, Gray, has been based, and re-examined the small example of *Testudo Phayrei* at Calcutta, Dr. Anderson had come to the conclusion that Mr. Theobald's account of the history was strictly accurate."

Taught by former experience, I have consulted Dr. Anderson's original paper, and find,—1st, that the official minute above copied is inaccurate in most of the statements it contains. Dr. Anderson states first that the sternum shows that the animal is a *Testudo*, and the figures only refer to this part, and consequently both Mr. Blyth and Mr. Theobald were wrong, according to him, in referring it to the genus *Manouria*; secondly, that Mr. Theobald has falsely described the state of the specimen in the Indian Museum, in his printed catalogue of that collection; and, thirdly, the almost incre-